

CAUTION!

Winter 2005

Illinois Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Magazine



IN THIS ISSUE

Click It or Ticket • Alcohol Abuse Task Force • Bureau of Safety Engineering



One of IDOT's most critical goals is to save lives. The department is focused on creating an environment of public awareness throughout the state to drive down the numbers of crashes, injuries and fatalities. The lives lost in fatal crashes are more than just statistics. They are people with friends and loved ones whose lives will be forever changed because of a crash that many times could have been avoided.

Over the next year, Illinois will continue to provide resources to promote safe behavior to drivers and passengers. IDOT will administer and distribute nearly \$16 million in federal funds to state and local grantees. Those dollars will be spent on education and awareness, enforcement and data collection related to impaired driving, occupant protection, and the overall highway safety program.

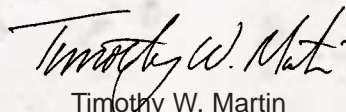
In an effort to better serve Illinois citizens, IDOT has made several changes to its organizational structure. The Division of Traffic Safety (DTS), led by Director Mike Stout, will work closely with the Office of External Affairs and the Bureau of Information Processing to coordinate resources, activities, and data collection. In addition, the department has created a new safety bureau in the Division of Highways. Newly appointed Bureau Chief Priscilla Tobias will lead our efforts to become more proactive in detecting trends, monitoring unsafe highway conditions and developing engineering solutions.

IDOT believes all stakeholders should be engaged in dialogue that promotes highway safety. Our outreach efforts include a team of Local Agency Liaisons who are dispatched throughout the state to work with community leaders to increase the awareness of Illinois' safety programs. They are joined by Law Enforcement Liaisons who provide technical support to state and local grantees that carry out impaired driving, occupant protection, and other traffic safety programs.

The division recently received a more than \$281,000 federal grant to create a Crash Outcomes Data Evaluation System (CODES). To assist with the implementation of the CODES project, IDOT is reinstating the Illinois Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (ITRCC) which will include collectors, administrators and users of state highway safety data and traffic records so there is a forum to review, evaluate and implement the best methodologies available as they relate to data collection.

During the past year, we have increasingly added more resources toward programs and activities with the same goal in mind – saving lives. In this edition of CAUTION!, you will find articles on winter safety, the Click It or Ticket Campaign, and the unveiling of new initiatives that will begin this year. Those initiatives include the new Alcohol Abuse Task Force which is a partnership between IDOT and other state agencies that provide resources to citizens regarding the dangers associated with alcohol misuse.

IDOT is committed to increasing highway safety. However, it is a commitment that must be shared by all. When you get into a car, make the conscious decision to buckle up— every trip, every time. Don't drive impaired. Driver distraction is also a major contributor of crashes. Remember, the only thing you should be doing while driving is driving.


Timothy W. Martin
Secretary

CAUTION!

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Governor

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312/793-2242 – Chicago

DIVISION OF TRAFFIC SAFETY
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ACCIDENT RECORDS
217/782-4518

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY

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Diesel Emission
217/557-6081

School Bus Issues
217/782-1606

Public Education Materials
217/524-4121

IL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY COORDINATOR

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www.dot.il.gov

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (NHTSA)

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
1-888-DASH-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4236)

8:00AM to 10:00PM ET Monday-Friday

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MULTI-AGENCY EFFORT TARGETS ALCOHOL ABUSE; NEW TASK FORCE TO CONCENTRATE STATE EFFORTS

CHALLENGES STATE COLLEGE STUDENTS TO JOIN EFFORT

Matt Vanover, P.I.O.

A new multi-agency task force is launching an effort aimed at educating citizens about the prevention and treatment resources available throughout the state to help combat alcohol abuse. Three state agencies active in preventing alcohol abuse recently launched the Governor's Alcohol Abuse Task Force. This first-time effort will be led by the Secretaries of the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Director of the Illinois State Police (ISP). The announcement was made two days prior to Thanksgiving, the traditional kick off of the holiday season and holiday parties.

In a statement supporting the multi-agency effort Gov. Blagojevich said: "State government has a number of programs, working independently to combat alcohol abuse issues. The Governor's Alcohol Abuse Task Force will bring these agencies together, with industry and interest groups, to better coordinate our efforts. By bringing all of our programs under the guidance of the Task Force, we're taking a team approach, attacking the problems together, rather than separately as individual agencies."

The Governor's Alcohol Abuse Task Force kicked off its efforts with a simulated car crash at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago. The demonstration

included a wrecked car placed on the plaza, and seven actors from the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council portraying fatalities from an alcohol-related crash. This simulation represented the 2003 Thanksgiving Holiday weekend where seven people were killed on Illinois roads in six fatal crashes.

"The sad reality is, some people just don't get it. They continue to drive drunk and people die as a result," said IDOT Secretary Timothy W. Martin. "I am excited about this new opportunity the Governor has presented us with, and I think, working together as one, we will make a difference."

Secretary Martin, along with DHS Secretary Carol Adams and ISP Director Larry Trent form the nucleus of the task force and will begin assembling other members this year.

"We want to reach out to advocacy groups and industry and ask them to partner with us in reducing the high social and economic costs of alcohol abuse," Secretary Adams said. "Abusing alcohol tears families apart, it shatters lives and yet it is entirely preventable. We all have a stake in fighting



alcohol abuse, whether it's in our homes, communities or across the state."



Members of the Governor's Alcohol Abuse Task Force are also challenging students at colleges and universities throughout Illinois to join in the effort to combat alcohol abuse. College and university students will be asked to produce a 30-second public service announcement (PSA) dealing with impaired driving. They will be asked to submit their entries by May 1, 2005, and the Task Force will judge the entries, with the winning submission used next year in a broadcast campaign. The winning entry will be recognized by having their school logo placed in the PSA during its broadcast.

"The choices we make in life may have far-reaching consequences for our future, our families and friends, as well as the innocent bystanders who are

often placed in dangerous and sometimes fatal situations," said Illinois State Police Director, Larry Trent. "The goal of this partnership is to educate the public of the dangers involved with alcohol abuse and the effects it can have on others."

Secretary Martin, Director Trent and Secretary Adams will identify the other members of the Governor's Alcohol Abuse Task Force, inviting representatives from interest groups, industry and other state agencies to join. ⚠

When people think of alcohol abuse they tend to think of alcoholism and drinking and driving, but abuse takes many more forms:

- Studies indicate that up to 40% of all residential fire victims are impaired by alcohol.
- According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism 1,400 college students aged 18-24 die each year from alcohol-related injuries.
- According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics about 40% of all crimes are committed under the influence of alcohol.
- Alcohol is a factor in as many as 40% of all domestic violence incidents in Illinois.
- Youth who drink before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21.
- About 3 in 10 of all Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives.

Actors who participated in simulated crash.





Taking our message to the streets

James Boratyn, OEA

In the dawn of the information age, IDOT is doing its part to keep the people of Illinois informed. We are not talking about Global Positioned Satellites or even DSL lines, IDOT is reaching out by way of trucks. One of the most visible entities of IDOT is the bright orange trucks that are seen daily on the streets. So, while pondering promotional ideas for IDOT public service campaigns such as “Click It or Ticket,” “Work Zone Safety” and beautification efforts, the Office of External Affairs came up with the idea that by attaching signs to our existing fleet of trucks, IDOT could increase advertising visibility

at a fraction of the cost of billboards which would, in turn, save taxpayers millions of dollars.

In mid-November IDOT rolled out a pilot program whereby it put together 40 signs promoting “Celebrate Safely Illinois!” and affixed them to 20 trucks in District One. The idea of these signs is to start a pilot program with a small number of trucks so that we can test how well these signs hold up under winter weather conditions. If these signs withstand the elements, IDOT will consider expanding this program. ▲

CELEBRATING? IF YOU CATCH A BUZZ, CATCH A RIDE

Impaired driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. Nationally, more than 17,000 people died in alcohol-related highway crashes during 2003 with at least 639 of them from Illinois. Every 30 minutes, nearly 50 times a day, someone in America dies in an alcohol-related crash. Hundreds of thousands more are injured each year. According to NHTSA, about three in every ten Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some point in their lives.

While the holiday season is over, it is still important to remind motorists to always Celebrate Safely! Designating a sober driver before the party begins is just one of several simple steps to remember to help avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for impaired driving.

This past holiday season, IDOT joined national, state and local highway safety and law enforcement officials to remind everyone to always designate a sober driver before each holiday party or event involving alcohol. The holiday season is supposed to be a time for family, friends, and festive celebrations, but it is unfortunately also a time when we see a tragic jump in the number of alcohol-related highway fatalities each year between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve. During last years holiday season, there were 136 people killed in fatal crashes – some of which involved impaired drivers.

Consider these other simple reminders:

- Don't think about getting behind the wheel of your vehicle if you've been drinking;
- Call a taxi or use mass transit if you are impaired – or get a sober friend or family member to come and get you;
- Stay where you are and sleep it off until you are sober;
- Remember – Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk. Take the keys and never let a friend leave your sight if you think they are about to drive while impaired.
- Remind your guests to plan ahead, always offer alcohol-free beverages during the event and make sure all of your guests leave with a sober driver.

Since 1981, every President of the United States has proclaimed December "National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month" to help underscore the public's commitment to preventing impaired driving and promoting the use of designated drivers and sober ride programs. The month of December and the New Year's Eve holiday were also highlighted by significant increases in state and local law enforcement efforts to combat impaired driving such as the use of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols.

Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is simply not worth the risk. The consequences are serious and real. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for driving while impaired can be really significant and not the way you want to spend your holiday season. ⚠

**SO REMEMBER,
IF YOU CATCH A BUZZ, CATCH A RIDE!**

North Suburban Holiday DUI Campaign A Great Success!

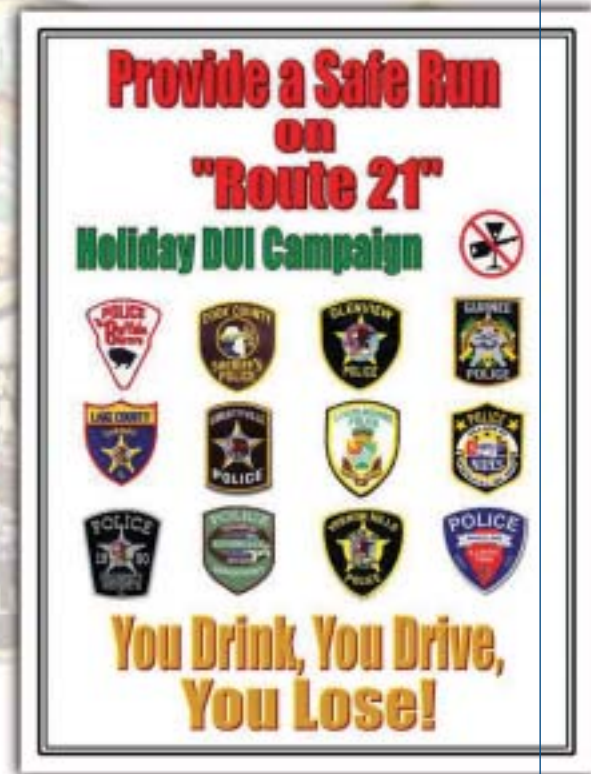
Twelve north suburban law enforcement agencies combined their efforts for the two weekends leading into the winter holidays to "Provide a Safe Run on Rt. 21". DUI saturation patrols were conducted along Rt. 21 (Milwaukee Avenue) from Gurnee to Chicago, a distance of over 30 continuous miles.

During the two weekends 80 officers provided 363.5 hours of special DUI enforcement along Milwaukee Avenue resulting in 81 arrests and 584 citations. Forty one motorists were arrested for impaired driving. The average blood alcohol content (BAC) of those arrested for DUI was .148, almost twice the illegal limit.

Officers made 40 additional arrests for other driving violations including picking up subjects wanted on warrants, drug possession, underage drinking, hit and run and resisting arrest.

This very successful campaign was the result of each participating department's commitment to removing impaired drivers from Illinois roadways. All were pleased with the results and are planning to conduct the campaign next year.

Participating agencies included Buffalo Grove, Glenview, Gurnee, Libertyville, Lincolnshire, Niles, Prospect Heights, Riverwoods, Vernon Hills, Wheeling as well as the Cook and Lake County Sheriff's Departments. ▲



IDOT, PUBLIC HEALTH USING TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE HIGHWAY SAFETY

IDOT and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) are developing a new database that will assist in highway safety decision-making. The Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System or CODES database is funded by a \$281,000 federal grant from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The CODES system will allow IDOT and IDPH staff to match traffic crash reports with health care data from a variety of sources, including emergency medical service records, hospital discharges and death certificates. IDOT's Division of Traffic Safety will use

the CODES information to support their decisions to improve traffic safety on Illinois highways. Eventually, the CODES system will be able to better identify the full extent of injuries suffered as a result of impaired driving, not wearing safety belts and not wearing a helmet on a motorcycle.

All individual medical and crash information will remain strictly confidential in compliance with state and federal regulations. IDOT and IDPH are currently in the process of beginning to develop the database and hope to have the full CODES system up and running by the middle of 2005. ▲



Drive Safely Illinois!

Crashes and fatalities most often occur on Illinois roadways during the winter and holiday season. The Illinois Department of Transportation urges you to Drive Safely Illinois!

For your safety and the safety of your loved ones:

Remember to always **buckle up** - it's the law!

Drive sober - Before the celebration begins, choose a designated driver

Slow down to avoid accidents and arrive safely to your destination

Pack a survival kit in your car with a blanket, hat and gloves,
a shovel, flashlight with batteries, and a reflector or brightly
colored cloth to use as a flag

Prepare your car for winter weather, inspect your wiper blades
and top off all your fluids

Drive Safely - Arrive Safely

IDOT travel information is available at:
800 452-4368 or www.dot.state.il.us

New Alcohol Coordinator Equipped with Experience and Passion

Marti Belluschi

As the new alcohol programs coordinator for IDOT's Division of Traffic Safety, I am very enthusiastic about our plans to make Illinois roadways safer than ever.

My name is Marti Belluschi, and I come to IDOT with a long history of traffic safety advocacy. As a teenager, I was gravely injured when a drunk driver going about 90 miles per hour hit my father's car head-on. I am very blessed to have survived that crash and to be able to work to stop the tragedies of impaired driving.

As background, I was the first Executive Director of MADD in Illinois, and I subsequently served as the DUI Prevention Adviser to the Secretary of State. I am the first DUI crash victim to serve in the position of alcohol programs coordinator, and I hope to use both my victim experience and advocacy background to continue and improve the IDOT programs.

With our goal of saving lives, everything becomes a high priority. Initially we are organizing our efforts in three coordinated areas - the Alcohol Assessment, the Highway Safety Plan programs and the Alcohol Abuse Task Force. We plan to set a strategy to implement recommendations determined by the NHTSA-sponsored Illinois Alcohol Program Assessment. We also plan to review the current Highway Safety Plan, impaired driving prevention and enforcement programs funded by IDOT, to develop an improved dialogue with the program managers and to ensure that programs are having the greatest impact possible.

An exciting new project for us will be work on the recently announced Governor's Alcohol Abuse Task Force. This Task Force will coordinate the alcohol abuse prevention efforts of IDOT, DHS and the State Police to determine the most effective use of our combined knowledge and resources. This will be the first time these agencies have had such a structure for sharing this information.

While I will be based in Chicago, I plan to also spend time in Springfield and travel around the state to work with program managers and traffic safety staff. I hope that *Caution!* readers will not hesitate

to reach out and let us know what they think should and could be done to prevent and deter impaired driving. We are always open to new partners in traffic safety.

I am honored to have the opportunity to work with IDOT and all of our DUI prevention and enforcement partners. I know that I have much to learn, but I also have much to share from my experiences, contacts and network. I am truly a cheerleader for traffic safety, particularly drunk driving prevention, and I look forward to working together to save lives. ⚠️



MARTI BELLUSCHI

When Marti Belluschi was 15 years old, she was hit and almost killed by a drunk driver. Belluschi's traumatic experience is one of the reasons she has become such an advocate for teens killed in crashes that involve impaired drivers. Belluschi says these are not accidents but crashes that have predictable outcomes because someone made the choice to get behind the wheel after drinking.

As alcohol coordinator, Marti will lead IDOT's alcohol awareness efforts and assist the department with its goal to reduce alcohol-related crashes in the state of Illinois.

Statewide DUI & Click It or Ticket Efforts



During the holidays, IDOT and ISP coordinated a sustained safety belt enforcement campaign through the beginning of this year. Click It or Ticket news conferences were held simultaneously throughout the state to inform the public of Illinois' commitment to increased safety belt usage. There were rollover demonstrations and road side safety checks conducted during the events. In Springfield, Secretary Martin was on hand to award individuals, who survived crashes because of their choice to buckle up, with Saved By the Belt medallions.





ENGINEERING SAFETY BY DESIGN

Road Worker Creates Device to Enhance Safety in Construction Zones

Michael Moss, Policy Advisor

Safety innovation is not just management's business. Illinois' road workers have stepped up to the plate to create a safer environment for themselves in work zones. An Illinois "flagger," Richard Heinz, whose job is to warn motorists to slow down or stop at roadway construction sites, has developed an automatic flagging machine, the J-4. IDOT, in cooperation with the FHWA, has deployed several of these machines, to be used throughout the state, in order to test them over the next year. You could start seeing them on the road as a regular part of a construction zone.

The J-4 machines work just like a regular flagger – and in fact are still operated by a worker – but they keep the worker at a safe distance from the roadside and out of harm's way. You've probably seen flaggers out on the road with a large sign, showing a "SLOW" on one side and a "STOP" on the other. But, since these workers have to stand adjacent to the roadway to show the sign to oncoming motorists, they are put into danger of being hit by a stray driver. In fact, during 2003, six Illinois workers were killed while doing their jobs in roadway construction zones. The J-4 machine sits by the roadway and shows either the "SLOW" or "STOP" sign, while the worker operates it by remote control from the safety of the road's shoulder, out of the stream of traffic.

Heinz came up with the idea for the machine after having his own experience of nearly being hit by a motorist while operating a manual flag. He was able to save himself by diving into a roadside ditch. "Every flagger

has these horror stories," he says. He initially designed the J-4 machine in 2000, and IDOT started to test the device according to FHWA standards. It has recently been granted interim approval under national standards for use by DOTs. The machine costs around three thousand dollars, and 20 of them are deployed around the state as part of a test program. Two machines will be used per IDOT district this coming year; they will likely become part of IDOT's safe way of doing business.

And what does "J-4" stand for? Heinz has four sons, and each has a name that starts with the letter "J." ⚠️



IDOT Renews Focus on Safety Creates Bureau of Safety Engineering

Pricilla Tobias, State Safety Engineer

A new, proactive approach to addressing highway safety is expected to make a big difference in the lives of Illinois motorists. As the Governor's Highway Safety Representative, IDOT Secretary Timothy W. Martin is committed to implementing initiatives that will ensure safer road conditions. To that end, a new bureau in the Division of Highways will renew the department's focus on safety, more readily identify and address problems and successfully measure strategies that reduce fatal crashes.

As IDOT leads the state's charge to make Illinois roadways safer, it has created the Bureau of Safety Engineering (BSE) to consolidate various safety efforts such as the safer design of interstates and expressways, rural and urban roadways, intersections and work zones.

The BSE will work in close conjunction with the Division of Traffic Safety and the Regions in order to provide a more coordinated effort in reducing fatalities, said recently appointed Bureau Chief Priscilla Tobias. "This synchronized effort between the two areas is expected to make a significant impact in reducing unsafe highway conditions and motorist behavior."

The various bureaus within the Division of Highways address safety within their own uniquely defined areas. These areas are commonly referred to as the "hard" or engineering side of safety. Roadside safety

has traditionally been addressed through long established design policies. The Division of Traffic Safety's role has always been to address the "soft" side of safety such as education, enforcement, and behavioral change.

Each year hundreds of motorists die and thousands are injured on Illinois roadways. In 2003, 1454 people were killed and 131,279 were hurt in crashes. While these lost lives are tragic, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) considers Illinois an "Opportunity State." Although the number of deaths on state highways is considered excessive, Illinois has the opportunity to reduce this high number of fatalities.

One of the primary goals for Illinois over the next year is the development of a Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP) coordinated between the Bureau of Safety Engineering and the Division of Traffic Safety. A CHSP optimizes the limited resources for human and engineering safety and will address all aspects of safety referred to as the 4E's: Engineering, Enforcement, Education, and Emergency Services. The American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO) is encouraging all states to develop a CHSP as an effective means of reducing fatality and injury rates.

The BSE will examine, on a system-wide basis, trends in crashes which have resulted in fatalities and serious injuries, i.e. median crossover crashes, run-off-road collisions, etc. From these analyses, it will provide data-driven recommendations and strategies focused on addressing identified problems. An increased focus on local needs will be required, as they represent approximately 48% of the fatalities on Illinois roadways. Because funding is restricted, there is a need to balance the dollars available with all the various needs of the highway system. Cost-effective measures will be identified to address safety. Already, we are looking at ways to accomplish this goal. An example is road safety audits. Under this process, safety issues are identified and prioritized for multiple projects simultaneously. This provides the designer with the ability to

select the appropriate low cost safety improvements in the most judicious manner. FHWA has selected Illinois to provide a case study for its national Guidebook on Road Safety Audits. In addition,

the Department has become a contributing member of the low cost safety improvement pooled fund administered by the FHWA. ⚠

Some specific safety initiatives by the Bureau of Safety Engineering include the following:

- Establishment of a Turned-Down Terminal inventory. This effort was initiated through an inquiry by the National Transportation Safety Board regarding turned down guardrail end sections. The next step is to develop a replacement schedule.
- Establishment of a less restrictive High Accident Location (HAL) policy. Our current policy is more restrictive than required by FHWA, limiting most projects to intersection improvements. The revised policy will emphasize improvements that are data driven. While we will still need to address HALs, we will also incorporate projects where identified safety issues exist and can be improved based on a benefit-cost ratio. In addition, we need to place more emphasis on the severity of crashes and not necessarily where we have numerous property damage only crashes.
- Analyze and evaluate median crossover fatalities which represent 14% of the fatalities on the Interstate system.
- Incorporate safety into all projects by evaluating, reshaping policies and conducting safety analyses.

City Meets State

Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) Commissioner Miguel d'Escoto took a moment out of his busy schedule to compliment the Illinois Department of Transportation on the first edition of Caution Magazine. "This is great, it touches on a lot of the issues that we have in common" said d'Escoto. He recently met at the CDOT offices with Jim Boratyn of IDOT- Office of External Affairs and Trisha Sternberg, a city planner with CDOT. This

meeting appears to be the beginning of an enhanced relationship between CDOT and IDOT. Building bridges with other government agencies for the common good of Illinois and its municipalities is a huge component of what External Affairs is all about. "Mr. d'Escoto is a fine administrator who shares our philosophy of cooperation. I certainly am looking forward to our partnership," said Boratyn. ⚠



Traffic Safety Holiday Party

Sharing laughs, humorous stories about fellow co-workers and their time here at IDOT, Traffic Safety employees gathered at a holiday get-together in December. More than 100 employees participated in the party. There were door prizes, desserts of all kinds, and lots of laughter and comradere.



Centers Provide Education and Resources to Keep Illinois' Children Safe

Shelith Hansbro & Lib Granzeau, Division of Traffic Safety

When you get into your car, what's the first thing you do? Turn on the radio, fix your makeup or adjust your tie? Hopefully the first thing you do is to fasten your safety belt. Buckling up is a high priority. Illinois is a primary safety belt state which means police can ticket motorists who are observed not wearing their belts. While adults can make the choice for themselves to obey the law, children depend on parents and caregivers to make sure they are securely fastened into their safety seats. Whether they are going on a road trip or around the corner, families must be made aware of just how imperative it is for everyone to be properly secured in their vehicles.

In July 2003, Governor Blagojevich signed legislation that enhanced child passenger safety. This law is a major accomplishment that places kids in booster seats and educates the public regarding changes to the Illinois Child Passenger Protection Act. Child Passenger Safety Week takes place in February, but IDOT is involved in educational campaigns throughout the year to enhance awareness on this critical issue. Annually, IDOT distributes federal funding to Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Resource Centers to provide awareness and education throughout the state on child passenger protection.

One of those centers is the Southern Illinois Regional Child Passenger Safety Resource Center which recently finished its third full year of programming led by Jahari Piersol, the Southern Illinois CPS Coordinator. She is a very passionate, dedicated technician who sets high goals in terms of safety for all the families she serves. Her major goals this past year were to hold more 32-hour CPS Certification courses, educate parents and children on the new booster seat law, and support existing technicians in the fields.

Jahari sets goals but always surpasses them. Originally planning to hold three 32-hour training courses, she held six after analyzing the region to determine the need for more technicians. Along with her terrific instructor team including Trooper Ray Minor, Trooper Marla Tolliver, Trooper JD Murphy, Master Sergeant Deb Garde, Laura Herman and

Mike Picchioldi, they are making major strides in child passenger safety. Accomplishments in southern Illinois included training the entire O'Fallon Police Department traffic safety division, the entire Metropolis and volunteer Fire Departments, and most employees of the Emergency Medical system. Through the team's efforts, the number of technicians in Pulaski County has risen from three to sixteen. There are now technicians in every one of the lower seven counties of the state.



Jahari planned, administered and evaluated 22 booster seat school-wide education and distribution programs. Close to 2,000 booster seats were distributed to parents, with education on proper use by more than 60 CPS technicians in a six month span.

Her third major goal was to support existing CPS technicians in the field. Jahari helped to plan and attended an average of four child safety seat checks per month with the majority of these checks being held on the weekend. She partnered with the Illinois Injury Prevention Coalition directed by the Illinois Department of Public Health, to institute Regional Injury Prevention Workshops. She helped plan, facilitate and evaluate three such workshops.

Congratulations to Jahari and her team for all their dedication and hard work to make Illinois' families safer. ▲

AT-A-GLANCE



MICHAEL R. STOUT

On November 1, 2004, IDOT Secretary Timothy W. Martin named Michael R. Stout as Acting Director of the Division of Traffic Safety. Stout has served as Deputy Director of Finance and Administration since June 2003. In January 2005, he was named the

Director of Traffic Safety.

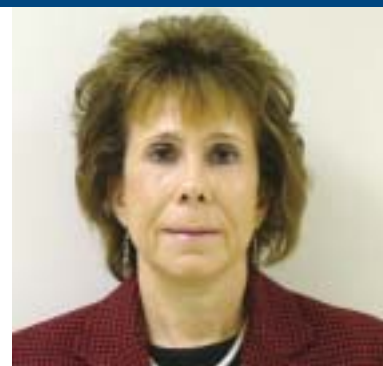
Stout's career began with IDOT in 1978 when he was hired as a transportation analyst in the Office of Planning and Programming. He left the department in 1986 to work for Teamsters Professional/Technical Local 916, which represents over 2,200 IDOT employees. Stout's career with the Teamsters spanned 13 years, his final five years was director of governmental affairs over ten states. In 1999, he was hired as director of operations for the Midwest Region of Laborers' International Union of North America.

Stout attended Murray State University and studied labor relations at Cornell and the George Meany Institute of Labor Studies. He has been married to his wife Vickie for over 24 years and together they have two daughters; Cori a, senior at University of Illinois at Springfield and Vanessa, a sophomore at Southern Illinois University.

On Christmas Eve 1980, Mike and Vickie Stout were the victims of a drunk driver. The Stouts, who were unbelted passengers thrown from their vehicle, were very fortunate to survive the crash. Spending their first married Christmas Eve in the Southeast Missouri Hospital (Cape Girardeau, MO) intensive care unit helps bring with Stout passion to reduce fatalities and injuries on Illinois' roadways.

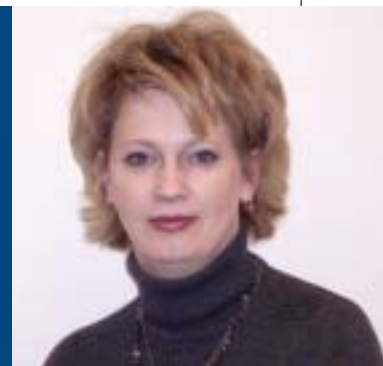
LORI MIDDEN

Lori Midden, Special Studies & Systems Manager in the Division of Traffic Safety was named one of eleven IDOT employees, statewide, recognized for their outstanding contributions to the department during the first quarter of FY 05. She was named employee of the quarter. Nominees were submitted to and evaluated by the Employee Recognition Panel. Recommendations were based on quality of work, productivity, safety awareness, good interpersonal relations, positive attitude, contributions and attendance.



PRISCILLA TOBIAS

State Safety Engineer Priscilla Tobias is originally from the state of Virginia. She graduated Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, otherwise known as Virginia Tech. Prior to completing her degree, she worked at the City of Urbana as a technician.



Her IDOT tenure began in 1991 as a CE Trainee in the District 5 Paris Office. Tobias primarily worked in the Bureau of Program Development, moving up to a Design Squad Leader, Senior Design Squad Leader, and then a Project Engineer. In October 2000, she transferred into the Central Office, Bureau of Design and Environment as the Highway Policy Engineer. The primary duties of that position were roadside safety and pavement design.

In 2001, she became the Policy Unit Chief in the Bureau of Design and Environment. She also teaches the Roadside Safety Class in the Professional Development Training Program. Her interests include reading and spending time with her four year old daughter.

Illinois **Lifesavers** **2005**

save the date!

May 9-11, 2005

**Crowne Plaza
Springfield, IL**

Illinois **Lifesavers** **2005**

save the date!

May 9-11, 2005

**Crowne Plaza
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Illinois Traffic Safety Leaders**

JANUARY 1 – ANNIVERSARY OF CHILD BOOSTER SEAT LAW**FEBRUARY 6 – SUPERBOWL SUNDAY**

IDOT sponsors the “Complete the Pass” campaign to encourage using designated drivers during the celebrations.

FEBRUARY 7-8 – CAMPUS ALCOHOL TRAFFIC SAFETY CONFERENCE

Springfield – Introduces Illinois campus communities to best practices used to reduce campus alcohol usage.

FEBRUARY 11-20 – CHICAGO AUTO SHOW

Educational materials concerning IDOT safety initiatives will be distributed to attendees. These initiatives include campaigns addressing: You Drink and Drive. You Lose, Click It or Ticket, Child Passenger Protection and Work Zone Safety.

FEBRUARY 13-19 – CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK

Sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, this week places an emphasis on the importance of safely transporting children. Whether children travel by car, bicycle, school bus or as pedestrians, it is everyone’s responsibility to make sure each trip is as safe as possible. We encourage you to participate in the many activities that will take place throughout the state.

IDOT sponsors the new program, “Nothing says I love you like a booster seat” campaign. Raise awareness about the safety and booster seat laws.

MARCH 1

Traffic Safety begins the new campaign, “Luck Won’t Keep You Out of Jail, but a Designated Driver Will”. The goal is to discourage drinking and driving over the St. Patrick’s Day holiday and promote the use of designated drivers.

MARCH 13-15 – NATIONAL LIFESAVERS CONFERENCE

Charlotte, North Carolina – This conference deals with many traffic safety-related issues such as occupant protection, drinking and driving, speeding, emergency health care, enforcement activities and other behavioral factors.

APRIL 1 – 30 ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH**APRIL 7 – NATIONAL ALCOHOL SCREENING DAY****APRIL 9-12 – WORK ZONE SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK**

Educational materials will be distributed at rest areas throughout the state. Statewide media campaign will be held.

MAY 1-31 – MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

In addition to a press release proclaiming May as Motorcycle Awareness Month, IDOT organizes volunteer motorcycle clubs to wash car and truck windshields every weekend in May at rest areas throughout the state. Motorcycle awareness literature is distributed as part of the windshield wash program.

MAY 9-11 – ILLINOIS LIFESAVERS CONFERENCE

Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL – Premier conference in Illinois dealing with traffic safety issues such as occupant protection, drinking and driving, speeding, emergency health care, enforcement activities and other behavioral factors.

MAY 19 – CLICK IT OR TICKET MEDIA CAMPAIGN KICKOFF**MAY 23-30 – BUCKLE UP AMERICA WEEK**



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**

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